

REPORT

Relative to Captain Bigger's Rangers.

FEBRUARY 10, 1818.

Ordered to be printed by the House of Representatives.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition and accompanying documents of a company of rangers, commanded by captain James Bigger, in the years 1813 and 1814,

REPORT:

That it appears, from the documents accompanying said petition, that the services of the petitioners were accepted by the President, in the month of April, 1813, as mounted rangers, for one year; that on the 29th day of May, next ensuing, they were mustered into the service of the United States; that until the 20th of March, 1814, they were engaged in an active, perilous, and fatiguing service, on the frontiers of Indiana and Illinois territories; that, on the said 20th of March, at Vincennes, a distance of about 120 miles from their respective homes, they were, for the first time, notified of an order dismounting them, on the last day of February, then past; and that on the same day, they were verbally dismissed, and permitted to return home; that in April following, they were ordered again into service; which order they obeyed, and continued therein, until the second day of June, then next ensuing; that, the district paymaster, considering them as dismounted on the last day of February, paid them as footmen from that time; that the said district paymaster, considering said company discharged by colonel Russel, to take effect from the 13th of March, refused to pay them beyond that time; and that, for the same reason, said company have not been paid from the said 13th of March, to the time they again resumed their stations on the frontiers, although it appears from the orders of colonel Russel to captain Bigger, of the 28th April and 20th May following, that said company had not, at any time previous, been discharged.

That the petitioners pray to be allowed a balance of full pay, as mounted rangers, from the 29th day of May, 1813, the time they were mustered into service, to the 2d of June, 1814, inclusive, the time they were mustered out of service.

Under all the circumstances of the above case, your committee are of opinion that the prayer of the petitioners is reasonable, and ought to be granted, and report a bill accordingly.

